MANITOBA INSTITUTE OF
TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

March 15, 2016

Janice Lukes
City Councillor, St. Norbert Ward
Council Building
510 Main St.
Winnipeg, MB
R3B 1B9

Re: Improved Transit Service for MITT Students

Councillor Lukes:

On behalf of Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT) students and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to express support for the proposed modification to transit routes #84 and #86 in south Winnipeg.

MITT's main campus is located on the corner of Scurfield Boulevard and Henlow Bay, extending south on Fultz Boulevard. It is currently served by transit routes #84, #86, #78, and #180 / #181. However, accessibility is limited by route schedules and stop locations, particularly for routes #84 and #86, making travel by Winnipeg Transit challenging for MITT's students and staff.

MITT has experienced unprecedented growth in the last two years that is expected to continue in the foreseeable future. This is as a result of MITT's newly legislated ability to offer high school diplomas alongside new and enhanced post-secondary programs, as well as an increasing interest in careers in the skilled trades and technical/vocational fields.

Since 2012-13, MITT has experienced a 54% increase in enrollment at its Henlow/Fultz campus, equating to over 2100 full and part time students on campus today. In the next two years, several planned and approved capital expansions will further increase the student body. Projects include a new Industrial Welding shop, a 74-seat childcare facility, and a state of the art Health and Technology Innovation Centre. These capital projects will provide space to launch, expand or relocate 21 programs to MITT's main campus, bringing an additional 700+ net new students on site in the next two years; an additional 33% increase in population. In addition to this growth in technical programs, MITT's International English Language Institute is projected to grow from approximately 180 students today to 430 in 2016-17 and 660 within three years.

Henlow Campus 130 Henlow Bay
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3Y 1G4
Phone: 204-989-6500 Fax: 204-488-4152

Pembina Campus 1551 Pembina Highway
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2E5
Phone: 204-989-6566 Fax: 204-989-6483

Fultz Campus 7 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3Y 1G4
Phone: 204-989-6500 Fax: 204-488-4152

Erin Campus 609 Erin Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3G 2W1
Phone: 204-989-6434 Fax: 204-786-3008

EPC-March 15, 2016

It is important to note that MITT operates not only during the day but in the evening as well, with a full complement of classes running from 3:30 to 9:30pm year-round. In addition to greater transit accessibility during the day, there is a significant need for improved evening transit scheduling on all routes serving MITT's main campus. Routes #78 and #180 do not operate after 7:30pm; therefore routes #84 and #86 are the only options for MITT evening students.

Unfortunately, evening schedules for routes #84 and #86 are quite inconvenient. Route #86 stops at Scurfield and Kenaston at 10:19pm, nearly one hour after the end of classes, and runs only once every 70 minutes after that time. Route #84 is not much better, with the first bus after 9:30pm stopping at Scurfield and Kenaston at 10:05pm and again running only every 70 minutes after that time. Students and evening staff deserve better, and the proposed improvements to these routes will go a long way towards making transit in this area more convenient.

The City of Winnipeg has surely noticed increased traffic-related issues on Henlow Bay and potentially increased ticket revenues as a result of MITT's growth and the corresponding increase in traffic. It is very congested on Henlow. Compounding the issue is traffic on Scurfield, which makes it difficult to turn onto Scurfield and results in further jams on Henlow. This negatively affects all organizations and businesses in the area, including Pembina Trails School Division and Shaw. Safety issues have arisen as a result of illegally parked vehicles. All of these concerns will be made worse by the relocation of 500 staff to Shaw's new facility at 14 Fultz Blvd in the coming months.

MITT, like the City of Winnipeg and many other businesses and organizations, is working hard to reduce its environmental footprint and improve services. One relatively simple solution is to make transit more accessible, thereby reducing the number of vehicles on our roads and making it easier for students and staff to get to school or work. In addition to these benefits, improved transit accessibility in this neighbourhood will greatly benefit the broader community. Therefore, MITT fully supports the proposed transit improvements.

Thank you for working on our behalf to have this important item included in the budget. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Paul Holden
President & CEO

cc. Brian Bowman
John Orlikow